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Letter dated 21 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 26 February the people of Azerbaijan will commemorate the fourteenth anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide.

On the night of 25 to 26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces massacred the civilian population and ruined the town of Khojaly. This crime led to the death of 613 people, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly men; 1,275 persons were taken hostage, and the fate of more than 150 remains unknown.

The magnitude of this crime was reported by numerous sources.

The Independent reported: "Elif Kaban, a Reuters correspondent in Aghdam, reported that after a massacre, Azeris were burying scores of people who died when Armenians overran the town of Khojaly, the second-biggest Azeri settlement in the area. 'The world is turning its back on what's happening here. We are dying and you are just watching', one mourner shouted at a group of journalists."[1]

The Age (Melbourne, Australia) reported: "The exact number of victims is still unclear, but there can be little doubt that Azeri civilians were massacred by the Armenian Army in the snowy mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh last week".[2]

Pascal Privat and Steve Le Vine of *Newsweek* in the article "The face of massacre" reported: "Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25-26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped".[3]

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[1] *The Independent*, 29 February 1992.
[2] *The Age*, 6 March 1992.
[3] *Newsweek*, 16 March 1992.

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Jill Smolowe of *Time* magazine in her article "Massacre in Khojaly" provided the following information: "While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly two weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighbouring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths — the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children — is unknown".[4]

The Khojaly Genocide must not be forgotten, and its perpetrators must and will be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 40 of the agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

[4] *Time*, 16 March 1992.